

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT)**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE  
the specification of which

- (a) X is attached hereto.  
 (b) \_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Serial No. 09/ \_\_\_\_\_ or  
 Express Mail No. \_\_\_\_\_, as Serial No. not yet known, and was amended on  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).  
 (c) \_\_\_\_\_ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 filed on \_\_\_\_\_ and amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a).

**PRIORITY CLAIM**

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed; also I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) that is/are listed below:

- (d) \_\_\_\_\_ no such applications have been filed.  
 (e) X such applications have been filed as follows.

**EARLIEST FOREIGN OR PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS  
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35, USC 119
<u>Japan</u>	<u>2002-295916 (Patent)</u>	<u>October 9, 2002</u>	<u>X</u> Yes <u>    </u> No
_____	_____	_____	<u>    </u> Yes <u>    </u> No
_____	_____	_____	<u>    </u> Yes <u>    </u> No

**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS  
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

Thomas G. Eschweiler, Registration No. 36, 981  
Eric M. Highman, Registration No. 43,672  
Gregory J. Adams, Registration No. 44,494  
William J. Cooper, Registration No. 44,629

The undersigned to this declaration and power of attorney hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney(s) named herein to accept and follow instructions from

Name(s) of authorized representative(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

as to any actions to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney(s) and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the person(s) from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney(s) will be so notified by the undersigned.

### Send Correspondence To:

Thomas G. Eschweiler, Esq.  
Eschweiler & Associates, LLC  
National City Bank Building  
629 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1210  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

### Direct Telephone Calls To: (name and telephone number)

Thomas G. Eschweiler, Esq.  
(216) 502-0600

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued therein.

Full name of sole or first inventor, Yuzo Ichiura  
Inventor's signature: Yuzo Ichiura  
Date: September 26, 2003 Country of Citizenship: Japan  
Residence: Osaka, Japan  
Post Office Address: 2-37-26 Harata Ibaraki  
Osaka 567-0845 Japan

Full name of second joint inventor, Masaki Nakakado  
Inventor's signature: 中門正毅  
Date: SEP. 26, 2003 Country of Citizenship: Japan  
Residence: Osaka, Japan  
Post Office Address: 3-1-48-909 Deguchi Hirakata  
Osaka 573-0065 Japan

Full name of third joint inventor, Syuhei Kurata  
Inventor's signature: 倉田修平  
Date: SEP. 26, 2003 Country of Citizenship: Japan  
Residence: Kyoto, Japan  
Post Office Address: 30-46 Kohata Nakamura Uji  
Kyoto 6111-0002 Japan

Full name of fourth joint inventor, Natsumi Murata  
Inventor's signature: 村田夏美  
Date: Sep. 26, 2003 Country of Citizenship: Japan  
Residence: Osaka, Japan  
Post Office Address: 1-3-26-806 Fukaekita Higashinari Osaka  
Osaka 537-0001 Japan

CHECK FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDED PAGE(S) WHICH  
FORM A PART OF THIS DECLARATION

X This declaration ends with this page.